

## Message Text

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ACTION CU-04

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 ADP-00 /012 W  
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R 131117Z JUL 73  
FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON  
TO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK  
USIA WASHDC  
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 4564  
AMCONSUL NHA TRANG  
AMCONSUL DANANG

UNCLAS SAIGON 12665

USIAC

STATE FOR CU

E.O. 11652: N/A  
SUB: KENNEDY QUARTET

1. AS FIRST MAJOR U.S. CULTURAL PRESENTATION IN VIET NAM FOR MANY YEARS, KENNEDY QUARTET DREW ENTHUSIASTIC RESPONSE FROM CONCERT AUDIENCES IN SAIGON, NHA TRANG, DANANG AND HUE DURING THEIR JUNE 28 - JULY 2 VISIT. QUARTET MEMBERS EDGAR SCHENKMAN, VIOLA; MARGUERITE SCHENKMAN, VIOLIN, ANA MARIA MALDONADO, CELLO; AND ROSE-MARIE JOHNSON, VIOLIN, ARE RESIDENT AT THAI COLLEGE OF DRAMATIC ARTS, BANGKOK, JOINTLY SPONSORED BY JOHN F. KENNEDY FOUNDATION, JDR III FUND AND ROYAL THAI GOVERNMENT.

2. QUARTET OPENED JUNE 28 AT SAIGON VAA TO DISTINGUISHED INVITED AUDIENCE OF 220. EVENT PROVED DRAWING CARD FOR IMPORTANT CONTACTS WHO HAVE NOT PREVIOUSLY BEEN TO VAA EVENTS, INCLUDING NATIONAL RADIO DIRECTOR HAU, NATIONAL TV HEAD HOA, PLWAR DIRECTOR GEN. TRUNG, 18TH DIVISION COMMANDER GEN. DAO, AND VOICE OF FREEDOM DIRECTOR COL. NINH. ALSO SEEN WAS OPPOSITION POLITICIAN TRUNG DINH DZU IN HIS FIRST (TO OUR KNOWLEDGE) PUBLIC APPEARANCE SINCE RELEASE FROM HIS FIVE YEARS IN PRISON. AUDIENCE REACTION WAS TREMENDOUS, BELYING UNCLASSIFIED

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SOMETIMES-HEARD CLAIM THAT VIETNAMESE AUDIENCES DON'T UNDER-

STAND OR APPRECIATE WESTERN CLASSICAL MUSIC.  
PERFORMANCE WAS VIDEO-TAPE RECORDED. AMBASSADOR WHITEHOUSE  
HOSTED RECEPTION AT VAA FOLLOWING PERFORMANCE.

3. FOLLOWING EVENG'S CONCERT IN NHA TRANG WAS COMMUNITY EFFORT.  
PROVINCE CHIEF PROVIDED PROVINCE AUDITORIUM AND MANPOWER TO  
SET UP THEATRE SEATS, WHILE NHA TRANG CITY AUTHORITIES RECRUITED  
USHERS AND OTHER HELP. AUDIENCE OF 220 INCLUDED ALL PROMINENT  
LOCAL OFFICIALS HEADED BY PROVINCE CHIEF, REGIONAL MILITARY  
COMMANDERS, AND CIVIC LEADERS. LOCAL RADIO STATION TAPED  
CONCERT FOR BROADCAST. PROVINCE CHIEF AND HIS WIFE SUMMED UP  
EVENT IN ONE WORD: "MARVELOUS."

4. ABOUT 145 INVITED GUESTS GATHERED AT DANANG VAA TO HEAR  
QUARTET JUNE 30. AUDIENCE INCLUDED GOVERNMENT AND CULTURAL  
LEADERSHIP, GENERAL DANG OF I CORPS STAFF, AND SEVERAL MEMBERS  
OF HUNGARIAN ICCS DELEGATION. CONGEN HOSTED BUFFET SUPPER  
AFTER EVENT. CONCERT RECEIVED WARM PRAISE FROM EVERY QUARTER.  
AT JULY 4 RECEPTION BOTH THE CONGEN AND BPAO WERE DELUGED  
WITH REQUESTS FOR MORE CULTURAL EVENTS OF THIS CALIBER.

5. QUARTET PLAYED ITS FINAL CONCERT IN HUE JULY 1 TO SLIM AUDIENCE  
OF 60 PEOPLE. HOWEVER, PROVINCE CHIEF AND JUDGE OF FIRST  
APPEAL COURT WERE THERE, AS WAS DELEGATION FROM NATIONAL  
INSTITUTE OF MUSIC.

6. BELIEVE QUARTET'S APPEARANCES IN SAIGON AND OTHER CITIES  
CARRIED MESSAGE AS SIGNIFICANT AS MUSIC WAS ELOQUENT: U.S.  
COMMITMENT IS NOT ONLY MILITARY AND ECONOMIC IN NATURE, BUT  
EXTENDS TO UNIVERSAL VALUES IN COMMUNICATION OF CULTURAL  
ACCOMPLISHMENT. APPRECIATE USIA AND DEPARTMENT ASSISTANCE  
IN KEEPING US ABREAST OF OTHER PERFORMING ARTS GROUPS WHICH ARE  
IN OR MAY BE COMING TO EAST ASIAN AREA.

7. FOR BANGKOK: WE ARE EMPHATICALLY INTERESTED IN RETURN  
ENGAGEMENT FOR KENNEDY QUARTET. SUGGEST PERIOD SEPTEMBER 7  
TO 12 FOR CONCERTS IN SAIGON, DALAT, CANTHO.  
BREMEN

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**TAGS:** SCUL  
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